**Age of Absolutism - Extension Assignment**

**Background:**

It has been said that power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Nothing could be more true during the age of absolute monarchy, one of the most dramatic times in world history. Leaders accumulated vast wealth and ruled with unlimited power, often at the expense of the subjects they ruled. The inevitable result was war, revolution and political change. Today, only a few nations continue to be ruled by absolute rulers. It is predicted that even those nations will one day become democratic.

**Assignment:**

Your assignment is to research two (2) modern nations that still have absolute rulers. Write a brief report detailing these countries, including the following:

* Name and location of country
* Name of leader (title)
* How leadership is determined
* Economic information of country
  + Distribution of wealth & poverty levels
  + Chief export
* Religious makeup
* Military situation
  + Tie to leadership?
  + Access to WMD’s?
  + Allies/Enemies
* Comparison to the other country researched
* Relationship with the United States

Conclude your report with a paragraph explaining the pros and cons to absolutism. Be sure to discuss why and how such leaders come to and fall from power. Mention the lasting effects of absolutism on history.

\*\* Do not forget citations!!!

~ check out the “CIA Fact Book” online!!